

Excursion Talk.

"Say are you going out of town the last week in August?"

"Why, no. I am going to wait for the Masonic moonlight excursion of Saturday night, August 30th."

"The best blood and brains of Washington patronize Masonic excursions."

"The Masons have such splendid order, too."

"Oh! I can't afford to miss the Masonic moonlight excursion of August 30th." This is what Miss Columbia said to Uncle Sam upon the occasion of his last visit to her.

"And just think of it!" she said. "The illustrious Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and all the Commanderies of Knights Templar of the District will make their annual pilgrimage to the shrine on the Masonic moonlight excursion of August 30th."

"What do you mean by the Mystic Shrine and Commandery of Knights Templar?" inquired Uncle Sam.

"Why," said Miss Columbia, "the Mystic Shrine and Commandery are names of very high orders of Free Masonry. These orders are very exclusive, being composed of the wealthiest and most learned men in the world."

"From time immemorial the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and the Knights Templar make annual pilgrimages to the shrine. The one for this year will be begun on Saturday evening, August 30th at 6 p. m. They go down on the palatial steamer Jane Mosely. Everybody will be there. Oh! I must go."

"The price is only 25 cents for the whole trip, and they carry you 50 miles down the beautiful and picturesque Potomac. The round trip will cover a distance of 100 miles."

"This, you know, means that your trip will cost you only a quarter of a cent for every mile, or one cent for every 4 miles."

"Everybody can afford to take in this moonlight excursion on August 30th, even you Uncle Sam."

"No sane person would ever charge you with being extravagant for taking advantage of a cheap pleasant trip like this. You owe something to your health, you know. A delightful sail down the Potomac with the Masons on their moonlight excursion of August 30th will cost you only 25 cents, and will be worth more to your health than the best dollar bottle of tonic bitters on the market."

Everybody in Washington will agree with Miss Columbia in her remarks to Uncle Sam. Especially are her words of wisdom appropriate to the colored citizens of the District.

Going on an excursion like this given by the very best people among us, is not extravagance. The fare is too cheap to be called by any such name.

Only 25 cents for a delightful sail on the swiftest, safest and superbest excursion steamer on the river. Just think of it! And with the Masons, too!

The writer knows a dozen or more "cullud gemmen" around town, so-called leaders, who are chronic kickers on excursions. They tell you that neither they nor you can afford to patronize excursions. These same "cullud gemmen," who make all their money out of Negroes—buy, every day, from 1 to 2 cups of coffee apiece from a certain third-rate white restaurant. At the rate of one cup a day these same "cullud gemmen," who are looking out for the good (?) of the race, waste at least 30 cents per week in a third-rate restaurant, which would not allow them to occupy even a third-rate seat at one of its tables.

Just think of it! 30 cents per week for coffee in such a place is not extravagance; while 25 cents per week, now and then for a healthful outing on a palatial steamer owned and operated by colored men, is extravagance.

Some men would rather be served slop from a hog trough at 30 cents per plate by an old maid of Irish extraction and still not call that extravagance, than to be served over a mahogany counter by a buxom colored belle at any price.

But doesn't the economy of such people amuse you? Just ask one of these chaps to buy a 25 cent ticket for a colored excursion on a colored boat, and you'll hear him squeal. "Oh, I

can't afford it." At the same time he is puffing away at a 5 or 10 cent cigar bought at some Irishman's place of business; or he is renting a high-priced house in a 'white row' and boasts among his acquaintances that he is the only 'cullud pussun' in the row.

Pay no attention to the babblings of such freaks.

They belong to the same class as those colored lawyers and doctors, who have nothing but colored clients and patients, but who, when they have a house to build or any large amount of money to spend, give it all to white mechanics or tradesmen.

Go on the Masonic moonlight excursion August 30th. It will cost you only 25 cents. It would not be extravagance if you took one of these trips every Saturday night. It would really be economy. Your health would be improved tenfold that amount.

The secret of long life and good looks in the white race is that they go out from their homes as much as possible and breathe pure fresh air.

We must do the same thing. These cheap moonlight excursions as they are run by the Masons are a God's blessing to you.

These moonlight excursions occur at a time when your daily work is over. You have everything to gain, but nothing to lose by going on the Masonic excursion of Saturday, August 30th.

Go to market Saturday morning or early Saturday afternoon. You will then have plenty of time to get to the boat by 6 p. m., Saturday, August 30th.

On to the Jane Mosely, the palatial colored steamer, Saturday August 30th.

The Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and Knights Templar will make their annual pilgrimage to the shrine by moonlight on the Potomac, Saturday, August 30th.

Beyond verdant hills, kissed by golden rays of a departed sun, they'll show you moonlight on the lake, Saturday August 30th.

Danbury Dashes.

Danbury, Conn., Special.—The Russian tea party held at the A. M. E. Zion church on the 13th was a grand success. A large audience witnessed the performance of the young people and expressed themselves as being well pleased with the entertainment. The next attraction will be the address by Rev. J. Sulla Cooper, D. D., of the Mother Zion, New York City. Rev. Cooper will be here on the 28th of this month. His subject will be "My early Courtship or How to get the right kind of Wife."

The services at the New Hope and the Zion churches were well attended last Sunday. Mrs. Hattie Butler, of Barum st., is critically ill and her mother, Mrs. Brown, has been at her bedside for the past week. She has since died and left six children, the eldest a daughter of twenty-one years and the youngest a boy of one year old. Mrs. Evans of Franklin street is convalescent. Miss Rosina Stedwell, of Spanin, Pa., is in the city, a guest of her uncle, Mr. Abbey Freeman. Mrs. Catherine Pierce, the mother of Mrs. May Burdett, was taken suddenly ill last Sunday evening.

The Drew family and the Nelson family composing a party of nine went on a fishing excursion to Lake Macabuc, South Salem, N. Y. They all report a nice time and caught a mess of the flunny tribe for their trouble. Mr. James Butler has enjoyed himself in Bremerton, N. Y., Presiding Elder E. George Biddle will be at the A. M. E. Z on church September 17th. Miss Maud Demming of Sherman, Conn., is in the city visiting Mr. and Mrs. William Teiman of Roll street.

En Route to Richmond.

The delegation from Boston, Mass., Providence, R. I., New York City, Philadelphia and Baltimore to attend the National Negro Business League at Richmond, Va., will reach this city to-morrow at 1 p. m. They will dine at the Philadelphia House, and will spend a few hours in the city before starting for Richmond at 5 p. m. They will come on the special train from Boston, and will be joined in this city by the special train from Chicago, St. Louis and from Little Rock, Ark.

THE GRAND FOUNTAIN.

United Order of

True Reformers

ORGANIZED January 1, 1881

Office 604, 606 and 608 N. 2nd St., - - Richmond, Va

An order devoted to the interests of its members, both in their home and business relations. We offer you an opportunity for gilt edged business investment, in enterprises owned and controlled by the Order and managed by colored men, who are members of the Order.

If you are sound in health and mind, of good moral character, not younger than three (3) years nor older than sixty (60) you are eligible to membership. There are two Fountains, the Subordinate and the Rosebud.

SUBORDINATE FOUNTAINS.

To join the Subordinate Fountain you must be between 14 and 18 years of age. You pay \$4.60 to \$6.60 (according to age,) as joining fee. If you live in the country you pay 35 cents per month as dues; if in the city, 50 cents per month. You pay as taxes 80 cents per month.

As Sick Benefits you receive from \$6.00 to \$9.00 per month, in weekly payments.

As Death Benefit, your family receives \$75.00 if you die within a year. After one year the Death Benefit is \$125.00.

ROSEBUD FOUNTAINS.

To join the Rosebud Fountain you must be between 8 and 14 year of age. You pay \$1.00, either cash or by installments. The monthly dues are either 15 or 25 cent, as Fountains may decide. The annual tax is 10 cents. You receive as Sick Benefit from \$1.50 to \$4.00 per month in weekly payments.

As Death Benefit, your family will be paid \$34.50 you die within a year. After one year the Death Benefit is \$37.

In the INSURANCE DEPARTMENT, there are Three Classes:—Class B, Class E, and Class M. All dues payable annually or quarterly.

In Class B, the age limit is 14 to 60 years. Fee, \$2.50 to \$4.25. Annual dues, \$4.75 to \$7.60. The Certificate is valued first year at from \$100 to \$33. After one year, its value is \$200 to \$65.

In Class E, the age limit is 14 to 55 years. Fee, \$5 to \$6.50. Annual dues, \$9.50 to \$11.40. The Certificate is valued first year at from \$250 to \$175. After one year its value is \$500 to \$300.

In Class M, the age limit is 14 to 50 years. Fee \$11 to \$13.50. Annual dues \$21 to \$25. The certificate valued from date of issue at from \$1,000 to \$700.

You are entitled to a Life Membership in either of the Fountains or in Class B and E upon purchase of the required amount of Bank stock, which pays a dividend annually of 20 per cent.

The Grand Fountain United Order of True Reformers has paid up to July 29, 1900, a total of 3782 Death Benefits, with a grand total of \$521,264.75, over a HALF MILLION DOLLARS.

THE BANK.—In our Savings Bank the Order has a sound and flourishing institution that is a credit not only to the Order but the race as well. It began business April 3, 1889. The capital stock is \$100,000. The business is the same as that of any other regularly constituted bank, and is surrounded by the same safeguards. The stock sells for \$5.00 a share to members, and pays 20 per cent. dividends. Both time and demand deposits are received and 4 per cent. interest is paid on time deposits. The following is a copy of the Cashier's report to Auditor of Public Accounts of Virginia at close of business Sept., 5, 1900 and shows its flourishing condition:—

RESOURCES.		LIABILITIES.	
Loans and discounts	\$8,272 80	Capital stock paid in	88,125 00
Other stock, bonds and mortgages	164,423 83	Surplus fund	80,957 81
Due from National Banks ...	48,383 22	Undivided profits	6,826 80
Banking House	14,000 00	Demand certificate of deposit	96,786 29
Other real estates	99,588 00	Time certificates of deposit	118,424 74
Furniture and Fixtures	6,850 00		
Current expenses and taxes paid	1,388 99	Total	391,120
Specie, nickels and cents ...	12,399 80		
Paper currency	35,820 00		
Total	391,120 84		

The Reformer's Grocery and Feed Store is located at 501 North Sixth St., Richmond, Va., and members of the Order and the public generally are saved 20 per cent. on the cost of food products.

THE REFORMER is the newspaper published by the order from its own office in Richmond, Va. It stands for the voice of the people, representing co-operation and combination of the race and is the Beacon Light, the Headlight, the General Messenger and the General Agent of the Brotherhood. It is \$1.00 per year. A well-equipped job office bids for the work of the people, which is turned out in first class style and at low prices.

Six miles from Richmond, in Henrico County, Va., the Order has purchased 634 acres of land, and established thereon an "Old Folk's Home." With unexampled liberality and broad-minded generosity, the Order does not limit entrance to this home to its members alone, nor even to members families, but the doors are opened to the aged and decrepid of the whole race, regardless of their residence or connections. The Order makes itself the trustee for this glorious charity, and calls upon the whole people, black and white, North, East, South and West to assist by their contribution the carrying out of this praiseworthy idea. April 3rd of each year is set apart as a Grand Rally Day for the Home. Contributions can be forwarded to the cashier of the Reformer's Savings Bank, who will send receipt for same and account for it to The Grand Fountain.

Members of the Order and the public, when visiting Richmond, Va., are invited to stop at The Hotel Reformer, 900 North Sixth St. It is in a pleasant and desirable location. Service is of the best and rates are reasonable.

The Real Estate Department manages and controls all property interests of the Order. The Order now owns 13 buildings, 4 farms, 4 dwellings, 1 house with a fee simple value of \$123,500. In addition to these the Order leases buildings.

For any further information, address.

Wm. L. TAYLOR, W. M. Master

W P BURRELL, G. W. Secretary